

THE
Fanatick Feast.

A PLEASANT
COMEDY.

As it was ACTED at a
Wedding-Dinner
In Gr-----.

Risum teneatis amici !

LONDON,
Printed ; and Sold by J. MORPHEW
near Stationers Hall, 1710.

Price Six Pence.

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-310198570
4-7-2515



Subscription Fund
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THE PREFACE.



THE following History
coming to my Hands
from a Person, as it
seems, an Eye and Ear-
witness thereof, I cou'd not for-
bear publishing the same; but
however, so modified, as only to
put the first Letters of Names,
that if any person will apply it,
he may; for,

Qui capit, ille facit.

A . . . I ever

The Preface.

I ever had an Abhorrence of such as pretended to more Sanctity than their Neighbours, and yet upon Occasion none more Lewd than Themselves, as the following Story will shew. I will freely beg the Reader's Pardon if I have transgress'd the Rules of Civility in any Point; and, vice versa, expect he will not find Fault without Occasion; which is all I shall say in my Vindication for publishing hereof; and so Farewell.

The



The Fanatick Feast:

A Pleasant Comedy.

IS become a Proverb, *The greatest Saints, the greatest Sinners;* And, *Angelicus juvenis senibus Satanizat in annis,* *A Young saint, an Old Devil.* The greatest Pretenders to Sanctity, without Actions to prove the Sincerity thereof, are not better than the greatest Libertines, as will be verified in the ensuing Narration.

AND here it will be necessary, for the better understanding the sequel of the Story, to let the Reader know, that old *A—s*, a Man of good Education, and a Lover of Learning,

B

had

had given his Daughter C — in Marriage to
 Ch —, Son to old E — the Ufurer, who was
 exceeding Wealthy, and you know that's a ve-
 ry useful Qualification amongst some people
 that have seemingly renounc'd the Poms and
 Vanities of this wicked World. And for the
 better gracing of the Nuptial Feast, which was
 very splendid, it was agreed between the two
 + old Dads, who were two of the chief Elders of
 two different Sects, to invite to the Entertain-
 ment the principal Leaders, the P — rs and Pe-
 dagogues of the several Sects amongst 'em, be-
 sides a great number of others, both Gentlemen
 and Ladies of the best Fashion, whom I shall
 not presume to particularize by Name, but
 think it convenient to name the P — rs and
 Pedagogues in order as they arriv'd at the Bride-
 groom's House. And first appear'd Z — s the
 St —, and with him D — s, a famous Puzler
 in Disputation, and Tutor to old A — s's Son :
 The next was Cl — s, the walking Gerund-
 grinder, a noisie wrangling Sophist, whom his
 Scholars therefore call'd *the two-edg'd Cutter*.
 Next after him came H — n the famous Belly-
 God, whose appearance put the Sect of St — s
 into a terrible Consternation. These were all
 old A — s's intimate Friends and Acquaintance,
 and therefore invited to the Dinner, together
 with I — s the *Hit-hac-&-hoc*-man, and D —
 fam'd for Rhetorick. Then the young Bride-
 groom Ch — invited his Tutor I — n, call'd the
 Platonist, a Man of a grave and modest Aspect,
 and personable Appearance, whom for the re-
 gularity

gularity of his Life the People call *the Rule*. He no sooner entred the Room, but all the Company rose up, and pay'd him as much Respect as if he had been a Man of the greatest Quality, or even a petty-God. And now the Guests being well-near come, they begun to sit down to Dinner, the Ladies first, after them old *E---* the Bridegroom's Father, took the first place, and next him the Bride's Father, old *A—s*: But then rose an unhappy Dispute between *Z—s* the St— upon the score of his Age, and *H—n* as being a Cushion-cuffer in the chief Synagogue, and descended of a great Family in the City; but the St— soon put an end to the Controversie: *If*, says he to old *A—s* the Bride's Father, *you don't take me to be a better Man than that Epicure there, I'll leave you to eat your Dinner by yourselves*; and so calls to his Boy to be going. Then says *H—n* to *Z—s*, *For once I'll yield you the Point, tho' I think I might have been allow'd this favour upon the Account of my Priesthood, to say nothing of your unmannerly Reflections upon E—*. No matter for that, says *Z—s*, *I care not a Far for all the Gorbelly'd Priests in the Universe*; and so sate down. Next these two Men of Mettle sate Mr. *Cl---* the walking Gerund-grinder, below him *I—n*, then the Bridegroom, and next him *L—s*, that told all these Tales out of School; below him *D—s*, and next him his Pupil *Z—o*, then *D—s* the Rhetorician; and last of all *I—s*, the *Hic-hac-&-hoc-man*.

And now, who that has Breeding can forbear commending old A---s, for picking out the Sages and Virtuosoës of all Sects to adorn his Daughter's Wedding Dinner ! But I think I told you before he was a Man of Letters, and always delighted in such Company.— But, to pursue my Story.---- They fell to very quietly at first, for there were Victuals enough, and well dress'd. And here excuse me giving you a Bill of Fare, or a Detail of all the fine Sawces and Ragousts ; 'Twill suffice to tell you, that after we had been some time at Table, Cl--- whispering I---n in the Ear, *Do but look, says he, how old Z---s lays about him, and how furiously he attacks every Dish that comes in his way, and out of greediness lets the Sawce drop upon his Cloaths, also how he progs for his Boy behind him, not thinking the whole Company sees him ! Give L---s a jog, says he, that he may laugh as well as we :* But there was no occasion, for he had taken notice of him before. Cl---s had no sooner done whispering, but Al---s the Snarler bolted into the Room, tho' not invited, with that Verse of *Homer* in his Mouth ;

Menelaus is come without being sent for,

But most of the Company look'd upon him as an impudent Fellow for his pains, and had each a fling at him : One pelted him with a passage out of the same Poet ;

Menelaus, thou'rt a Coxcomb,

Another,

Another,

But this does Agamemnon much displease.

And so every one with what came uppermost; but so softly, that *Al——s* could not hear, for none was so hardy as to attack him openly, being a plaguy Fellow of his Tongue. However, Old *A——s* thank'd him for the favour he had done him in coming, tho' not invited, and desired him to sit down next to *I——s* and *D——s*; but he reply'd, after his Cynical way, I am not such a nice effeminate Fool as to sit or loll upon my Elbows at Victuals, I'll either stand or walk. Well, says Old *A——s*, do as you please. With that casting his Eyes round the Table, he fell on where he lik'd best, and so like a *Scythian* shifted his Quarters as he saw occasion, and all the time he was stuffing his Gut, preach'd to the Company of Virtue and Vice, railing against Gold and Silver, asking Old *A——s*, Why he would have so much Plate about his House, when plain Earthen-Ware might do as well? At last the Rascal began to be troublesome, so the Landlord tipt the Wink to one of the Waiters to give him a good swinging Bumper, thereby hoping to put a stop to his Impertinence, little dreaming of the consequence. He took it in his Hand, and stood silent for some time; but at last threw himself upon the ground in all the indecent Postures that could be, acting the Bedlamite very naturally. Mean
time

time the Glas went merrily round, and the Company entertain'd one another with pleasant Stories. At length Lights were brought in, and then follow'd a very merry Scene, which I think fit to acquaint the Reader with, that I may omit nothing remarkable in this Feast.

The Waiter that stood behind Cl——s was a pretty smock-fac'd young Lad, who was often observ'd to smile to himself, which made some of the Company watch him narrowly to find out the occasion of it. After some time he came and took the Glas from Cl——s, who gently squeez'd his Fist, and tip'd him a piece of Money. The Lad laugh'd when he squeez'd him, but it seems was not aware of the Mony, so that down it fell, and discover'd the matter, which put 'em both in Confusion. Those that sat next could not tell to whom the Money belong'd, for the Boy protested he did not drop it, and Cl——s made as if he knew nothing of the matter. Thus the thing was hush'd up, and few of the Company knew where the matter lay, only old A——s, who had observ'd the thing, gave a sign for the Boy immediately to withdraw, and a rough-hewn hatchet-fac'd Fellow to tend in his place. You may very well guess, how plague-ly Cl——s would have been out of Countenance thereupon, had he smelt the matter, which the Bride's Father diverted by putting the Glas merrily about. And now our Snarler Al——s, (who, you must know, by
this

this time was as drunk as a Wheelbarrow) having enquir'd what the Bride's Name was, order'd silence in the Room, and turning himself awkwardly towards the Ladies, Madam C—s, says he, I drink to you, wishing your Husband another *Hercules*. At this pleasant Passage the Company fell a Laughing, which rais'd old Morose's Spleen exceedingly; What, says he, you Coxcombs, do you laugh at me for drinking to the Bride and wishing her well? I would have you to know, that if she does not pledge me, she shall never be blest'd with such a Son as I am, of Courage undaunted, and of equal Strength both of Mind and Body; and therewith strips himself to the Waste, at which the Company fell into a greater Laughter than before; which vex'd him so heartily, he had certainly drubb'd some of'em, if they had not stop'd his Mouth with another Bumper; besides, they plac'd just before him a great Cake, the sight whereof mollify'd his Rage, and his Passion was asswag'd.

Now most of the Company having plentifully dipp'd their Bills, and got pretty drunkish, so that one could scarce hear his next Neighbour speak, so great was the Din and Tumult. D——s the Rhetorician repeated some Oration to the Admiration of all the Fools that stood behind him; and the Damn'd *Hic-&-hoc* Man, that sat next him, was horrid troublesome with his Fragments of Plays, and wretched Scraps out of *Pindar*, *Hesiod*, and *Anacreon*, which he tack'd very

very uncouthly together, and murder'd as abominably in the Pronunciation. But he seem'd most like a Conjuror when he said,

The Warriors met, the Bucklers clasp'd together ;

And this :

And now a dreadful Noise and Din was heard.

Then it was that Z—s was reading a Book of a very small Character, which a Boy brought him. But while we were in expectation of another Course, our Landlord A—s, who took care we should not be idle or want Diversion, had sent for a *Merry Andrew* to entertain the Company, and presently who should appear, but a confounded ugly Fellow with his Head shav'd, only a Lock left upon the Crown. This Buffoon danc'd, distorting his Body with a thousand ridiculous Postures, and entertain'd us with two or three smutty Songs. Then he set a bantering every body in the Room, but no exceptions were taken at what he said, all passing off with a Laugh. At last he fell foul upon the *Cynick Al—s*, calling him, his pretty little puppy Dog ; but old Surly-Boots (who was mad in his mind, because the Company was so taken up with him) threw off his Cloak, and challeng'd him a Fall, which if he refus'd to do, he wou'd thrum his Jacket for him. So that poor *Crumplede moy* (for that was the Buffoon's Name)

Name) was forc'd fore against his Will to comply with his Proposals. 'Twas sure a very pretty Sight to see a Grave P—r enter the Lifts with a *Jack-Pudding*, and Kick and Cuff, and also be kick'd and cuff'd in his Turn. Some blush'd to see such an uncomely Scene, others laugh'd till their Sides ak'd: At last the P—r, who had his Corps very handsomely thrash'd, gave out; and thus, to the great Satisfaction of every Body, the honest Mimick came off with flying Colours. Soon after this Fray was ended D—s the Physician, came in, excusing himself for coming no sooner, upon account of a very odd Adventure had besel him. He told the Company he had been to visit one P—n, a Patient of his, and a Fiddler by Profession, whom he was to cure of a Phrenzy, but knew not the Fit was then upon him. I was no sooner, says he, got into the Room, but my Patient shutting the Door, and drawing his Sword, swore he would nail me to the Wall, if I did not play upon a Flute which he gave me; but not being able to do it, he lash'd me over the Knuckles with a Whip. In this Extremity, I bethought myself, says he, of a Stratagem, which was, To challenge the Mad-man to play with him, upon this Condition, that he that was beaten should receive a certain number of Blows from the Conqueror. The Mad-man accepted the Conditions: So, says he, I took the Flute, and began to Play as well as I could. When I had done, I deli-

ver'd the Mad-man the Flute, and took the Whip from him ; and while he play'd I threw the Sword out of the Window. Being deliver'd from this Fear, I call'd out to the Neighbours to come in to my help, who came and broke open the Door, and deliver'd me from the Bear. He shew'd the Company some Marks of the Scuffle in his Face, which, it seems, had been very uncivilly handled. When he had concluded his Story, which diverted the Company no less than the Combat between old Snarl and the *Merry-Andrew* before, he sat him down next *I—s*, and fed heartily upon what was left. It was not without particular Providence that this honest Doctor came in, considering what Occasion the Company had for him afterwards ; for in this nick of time a Boy belonging to *Et—s*, stept into the Room, with a Letter in his Hand. He told them, his Master had order'd him to read it aloud before 'em all, and so come home. When old *A—s* had given him leave to read it, he drew near the Candle, and began. Says *Phil—* I'll warrant it is some *Epithalamium* upon the Bride and Bridegroom, for these are usual Complements upon such Occasions ; but the Company were all mistaken, for it run to this Effect :

Et—s

Et—s the P—r to A—s, Greeting;

WHat little delight I take in Banquetting, my pass'd Life will bear me witness; for though I am daily importun'd by Persons of much greater Quality than yourself, to Dine with 'em, yet I always refuse 'em, as knowing very well what Excesses and Irregularities are met with at the Tables of Great Men: Notwithstanding, I cannot but take it ill at your Hands, that having paid my Respects to you for so many Years, you thought me unworthy to be invited to your Daughter's Wedding, but have left me out of all Men, though I am your Neighbour, which inflames the Affront. At the same time I am vex'd, not so much for my own sake as for yours, to find you guilty of so much Ingratitude; for, lack-a-day, I would not have you think I place any Happiness in transitory Boar or Hare, or frail Pasty-crust, which I can have whenever I please, at such Gentlemens Houses as know what Civility is due to a Man of my Learning. Even this very Day I might have din'd, if I had been minded, with P——s, who had provided a most magnificent Entertainment, and was very importunate with me on this score, yet I refus'd to give him my Company, because, like a Coxcomb as I was, I thought to reserve myself for you: For which piece of Civility I am finely rewarded, since you could invite so many Fops to your Daughter's Wedding, and forget me. But why should I trouble myself about the Matter, since thou knowst no better; God help thee; thou art the shallowest,

lowest, most fordable Monster in the Universe, a body may take the depth of thee with a Barley-corn : Not but I know well enough who I am beholden to for this, I mean your two lousy Pr——s, Z——s and D——s, both which Blockheads, without Vanity be it spoken, I could dumb-founder with a single Syllogism, if I thought it worth my while. Let that hopeful Brace but tell me what are the first Elements of Learning ? What is the Definition of Philosophy, and how a Custom differs from a Habit ? and I promise I'll not trouble them about more difficult Matters. For Instance, What is a Dilemma, what a Sorites, and what a mowing Syllogism ? But in the Name of Jupiter, enjoy their blessed Conversation, for I will never envy't you ; I that place the supreme Happiness in Virtue alone, am above all these pitiful Affronts and-Contumelies. However, that thou may'st not have recourse to such a scoundrel Excuse, as to say, 'Twas mere Forgetfulness and hurry of Business that thou didst not invite me, I spoke with thee twice this Morning, once at thy own House, and a second time at the Meeting, while thou wast an Assistant there. This is what I had to say to thee upon this Subject. Now if thou thinkest the loss of a Dinner has put me into a Passion, do but recollect with thyself what happen'd to Oeneus. Thou knowest how heinously Diana took it of him that he had not desir'd her Company at the Sacrifice, when he invited the rest of the Gods to that Collation. Homer somewhere speaks of it to this purpose :

[Wrath.

Th' affronted Goddess spoke with direful
And

And Euripides,

Diana sent a Boar to waste his Fields,
And threw her fatal Arrows from afar.

I have given myself the trouble to cite these two Passages, to put thee in mind that thou hast past by a Person of my Worth and Learning, to invite such a Fellow as D——s to thy Feast, upon Account, I suppose, that he is thy Son's Tutor; and to say the Truth, he's very complaisant to the Young Gentleman, and loves him extreamly. Were it not that I am loth to pollute my Pen with the Narration, I could tell thee a fine Story of him; but if thou hast a mind to know it, go to his Schoolmaster Z——os, and thou may'st hear the whole Matter. But 'tis not good Manners to disturb the Jollity of a Wedding-Feast, or to accuse any Man, especially of so black Crimes, and of so detestable a Nature, tho' D——s deserves no better Treatment from me, who t'other Day stole two of my Congregation from me, however out of Respect I'll hold my Tongue. To conclude, I have order'd my Servant, if you offer him any of your good Chere, to bring home to me by way of Atonement, not to touch it, lest you should think I sent him for that purpose.

While the Letter was reading, the Company were all in a Sweat, with meer Shame and Vexation, and wish'd 'emselves out of the Room. Every Line set the Company a Laughing, especially those that by the length
of

of his Beard and his demure Looks took him for a Saint, tho' 'tis a Wonder how he has so long impos'd upon the World. Now as for for *A——s*, the reason why he did not invite this peevish old Fellow, was not out of any disrespect to him, but because he thought he would not agree to do as the rest of the Company did, and so would not so much as ask him the Question. As soon as the Boy had read over this familiar Epistle, every body in the Room cast their Eyes upon *D——s* and his Disciple *Z——o*, who were in a strange Confusion, which their frequent changing of Colour, their trembling and paleness, sufficiently testified; and indeed this Disorder seem'd to confirm what *Et——s* laid to their charge.

A——s was not a little disgruntl'd at this Business; however, to dissemble his Disorder, he turn'd the thing into Raillery, and put the Glass about; then he dismiss'd the Boy, and bid him tell his Master he wou'd think of it. Some time after *Z——o* stole out of the Room, his Tutor privately whispering him to withdraw, as if his Father had desir'd it. But *Cl——s*, who heartily wish'd for an Opportunity to vent his Spleen against the *St——s*, and had now the fairest he cou'd desire afforded him by this Letter: *Ha!* says he, *What!* does *Ch——s*, and *Z——o*, and *Cl——s*, all Three of virtuous Memory, commit these Extravagancies! The Censorious World will be apt to say, that all your mighty Wisdom consists only in Words, and that you are but Philosophers in Masquerade.

A very pretty Fellow this, ist faith, that writ the Letter, (no doubt on't but his Brethren are of the same Kidney) to compare A——s to O——s, and Himself to D——a ! (no less than a Deity cou'd serve his turn !) And is not this Example very proper for the Occasion, and suitable to the Follity of the Day ? Before Jove, cries H——n, who sat above him, and knew, I suppose, that a Boar was to be serv'd up in the next Course, we must desire A——s to send this old Fellow a good handsome Slice of it, lest he should kick up his Heels as M——r did, tho' even that ought to be indifferent to him, according to the Doctrine of C——s. How dare you prophane that Name in your Mouths, says Z——s, raising himself in a hoarse angry Tone ; or where is the Justice to measure those Immortal Heroes Z——o and C——s, by one profligate Impostor that abuses his Profession ? But who are You, in the Devil's Name, that make these Objections ? As for You, H——n, did you not shave P——x and C——r's Golden Locks, for which piece of Sacrilege the Gallows groan for you ? And You, worthy C——s, did not you debauch your Pupil S——s's Wife, by the same Token you were caught in the Fact, and went through all the Indignities that the enrag'd Cuckold himself thought fit to make you undergo ? Therefore be advis'd once in your Lives ; and, since you are a Pair of notorious Raskals, learn the Wit to hold your Tongues. But, by your favour, Noble Sir, reply'd Cl——s, I am no Cock-Bawd to my own Wife, as somebody is ; Neither do I remember that ever one of my Boarders deposited a Thing of
Value

Value in my hands, and I had the Impudence to forswear it ; Neither does the griping Sin of Usury stare me in the Face ; Neither, fourthly and lastly, do I offer to strangle my Scholars, if they don't pay me exactly on the Quarter-day. However, cries Z——s in a Passion, You're not such a Monster, sure, as to deny that you furnish'd C——o with Poyson to send his old Father out of the World ? With that, he drank, and threw the remainder of the Glass, which was about half full, in his Face. I——n the Platonist, that fate next him, had his share of the sprinkling as well as H——n, who wip'd the Wine from his Phyz, and desir'd the Company to bear Witness how he was affronted. But C——s, who had never a Glass in his Hand to return the like Civility, spit upon Z——s, and catching him by the Chin, was going to get out of his Debt, and I believe had knock'd his Brains out, if A——s had not interpos'd, and plac'd himself between the two Warriors, to prevent the effusion of Preistico-physico-pedagogico-Philosophical Blood. All this while, my dear P——s, I was contemplating with myself how insignificant and foolish a thing it was for a Man to amuse himself in the pursuit of Knowledge, unless his Life and Conversation were regulated by it, when I saw those very Persons that could Discourse so infinitely better than the common Herd, shew themselves such Asses and Buffoons in their Actions. And then I consider'd with myself, whether

whether the common Saying were true, That Learning debauches and corrupts the Manners of those that abandon themselves wholly to their Books, and the insipid Commentators upon them : For all those Reverend P——rs that were at the Table, I could not see one that was exempt from the ordinary Frailties of Mankind ; but made himself a Jest to the Standers by, either for some indecent thing that he did, or something worse that he spoke. Neither could I with Justice impute this to their Wine, since I found that *Et—s* writ the aforesaid angry Letter fresh and fasting, without the least appearance of Drunkenness to excuse his unmannerly Language. Thus methought the World was turn'd *topsi-turvy*, the poor illiterate Guests that were invited, behaving themselves modestly and decently in their Cups, and giving no manner of offence ; tho' I don't doubt but they laugh'd in their Sleeves, and hated those Hypocrites, whom, for the sake of their Habits, they admir'd before ; whereas, these Wise and Learned Persons, forsooth, were Slaves to their Lusts, and told the most Villainous Stories of one another, that can be imagin'd, eat and drank immoderately, and when they were weary of Scolding, came to downright Blows. But to dismiss this too serious Observaion, *Al—s*, a Man of a currish Disposition, to shew he was no respecter of Persons, lugg'd out before the Ladies, and

D

piss'd

pifs'd in the middle of the Room. Now for
 my part, I think, this Feast of ours, said my
 Friend, can be compar'd to nothing so pro-
 perly, as that which was kept at *Peleus's*
 Wedding, where the Goddess of Discord, be-
 cause she was not invited, threw the fatal
 Apple among the Guests, that occasion'd the
 utter Destruction of *Troy*: For, to come to
 an Application, *Et——s's* Letter was that
 accursed Apple that drew on the dismal Tra-
 gedy I am going to relate to you. Though
A——s, to prevent farther Mischiefs, as I told
 you before, plac'd himself between *Z——s*
 and *Cl——s*, yet this did not put an end to
 their Quarreling. 'Tis enough, says the lat-
 ter, that I have prov'd thee to be an ignorant
 Blockhead before all this Company, though
 to Morrow I shall revenge myself after ano-
 ther manner; but tell me, thou everlasting
 Moon-Calf, or that incomparable Sot thy
 Companion, for what Reason you rank the
 possession of Money among things indiffe-
 rent, since you make it the whole Business of
 your Lives to heap up Wealth at any rate?
 'Tis for this Cause, you are always courting
 the Acquaintance of Rich Men, and putting
 out your Money to Use; and, like Mercena-
 ry Rogues, never Teach but for the sake of
 Lucre. Then, with what Face can you De-
 claim against Pleasure, and Rail so at *E——s*?
 You that to purchase one Minute's Pleasure,
 would act or suffer the most scandalous things
 in

in the World: You, that are as angry as Devils, if you are not invited to every Entertainment, where you are not content to overload your own Guts, but you give your Servants enough to subsist them for a Week after. He had no sooner done talking, but he struggled with Z—s's Boy to get a Napkin out of his Hands, that was cram'd with all sorts of Victuals, designing to fling the Meat out upon the Floor; but the young Rogue prov'd too strong for him. Come, come, says H—, let them tell us, why they condemn Pleasure, and at the same time pursue it more than any of their Neighbours? Nay rather, answer'd Z—s, let C—s tell us, Why he places Riches among things indifferent? No; do you, says t'other: And thus these Learned Blades squabbled, till I— standing up, directed himself to the Company, Cease, cease, Gentlemen, cry'd he, to fall out thus among yourselves, and I will propose some Questions for the Entertainment of the Company, where every one shall be allow'd the Liberty to speak in his turn, after the manner of our Master P—s double way of talking. This Proposal was generally approv'd of; but particularly by A—s and E—s, who were now in good hopes that some Sun-shine would make amends for so much tempestuous Weather. This made A—s go to his old place again, thinking that the Peace was now fully concluded. And now the last Course of all was serv'd in, where eve-

ry Man had his Bird to himself, with variety of wild Boar, Hare, Fish and Cakes; in short, great plenty of every thing that a Man may honestly eat of, or carry home with him. But then two Messes were serv'd in every Dish; in one for *A——s* and *E——s*; in another for *Z——s* the *St——*, and *H——n* the *E——*; for *I——n* and *C——s* in the third; then for the Bridegroom and myself: But *D——s* had two Messes set before him, *Z——o* being gone away. I must desire you, dear Friend of mine, to carry these Particulars in your Memory, because you'll not understand the Story so well without them. I'll take care of that, said I; Go on. Well then, says *I——n*, since you are pleas'd to do me that Favour, I'll begin first, and after a little Pause: Since we have so many Learned Gentlemen at the Table, it might perhaps be not improper to enter into a Discourse of Ideas, and Incorporeal Substances, as also the Immortality of the Soul; but because I see some People here that differ from me in that Point, and being unwilling to engage in any Disputes at present; I'll dismiss 'em, and broach something more agreeable at this time, and that shall be *Marriage* in a general Way. It might be wish'd indeed, that Men cou'd live without so foolish a Ceremony, and after the laudable Examples of *Plato* and *Socrates* we could take up with *Pedorasty*, such Persons being the only happy

happy People: But as things now go, 'tis in some sort necessary for a Man to marry, tho' I am wholly of *Plato's* Opinion, even in that Case, that Men ought to have their Wives in common, to prevent the ill Consequences of Jealousy. This set the whole Company a Laughing, who were all mighty Admirers of this grave piece of Ph—phy, to hear him commend the Love of Boys before that of Women, and to cry up Community of Wives at a Marriage-Feast! Hower D---s resenting the thing, What a Plague, says he, do you talk so impertinently to us? Why did you trump up Jealousy at a Wedding-Dinner? Who in the Devil's Name do you think is troubled with it here? Why, how now Brazen-face, says the Libertine, how dare you prate to me? The O—r was just going to answer him in his own Coin, when the *Old-Change* prodigal Gerund-grinder I——s interpos'd; Fie, fie, Neighbours, says he, let alone your quarrelling, and I'll give you an *Epithalamium* upon the new Couple off hand. And as far as I can remember, they ran thus:

In th' House of A — s the Fair,

The Bright Cl---s was brought up with care.

All other Maidens she does far excell:

*From Luna, nay, from Venus she must bear
the Bell.*

*The Bridegroom too, if worth a Straw my
skill is,*

I dare be sworn is stronger than Achilles.

Courage,

*Courage, young Man, go briskly to the fight,
 And in the dark strive to obtain the white;
 And yet perhaps it is not white, but brown,
 However storm the Fort, and take the Town.
 Thus with my Muse, dear Bridegroom, I pre-
 sent you,
 And wish with all my Heart your Bride
 contents you.*

The good Laughing, which this horrid Dog-
 grel occasion'd, being over, nothing remain'd
 but that every Man should take his part of
 the last Course (for you must know when the
 Saints are minded to be merry they make but
 one Meal a Day) at which the two Dads,
 A——s and E——s, I——n and Cl——s,
 the Bridegroom and he that told me this Sto-
 ry, made no bones, every Man's Mess being
 alike, and set ready before him. But D——s
 thinking to engross his Pupil's share and his
 own (for I told you before Z——o was gone
 away) made a mighty bustle and a struggle
 whether the Servants or he should have it:
 But at last the poor Tutor was over-power'd,
 affording sufficient Matter of Diversion to
 the Company to see him fret and fume as if
 he had had the greatest Affront in the World
 put upon him. I told you before, that Z——s
 and H——n fate together, by the same to-
 ken that the former would have the prece-
 dency: Now it fell out unluckily that
 H——n's Fowl (for every Man had his
 Bird)

Bird) was better than Z——'s, which was certainly accidental and without design, yet Z——, (I desire the Reader now to mind, for I am just come to the pinch of the whole Matter) very fairly whip'd H——'s Chick, that was the fattest, upon his own Plate; but H—— not thinking it convenient to let him have his Humour in every thing, struggled to recover it, upon which a terrible Hubbub arose between 'em, insomuch that they dash'd their Fowls about one another's Chaps, and at last catching hold of one another fast by the Chin, they call'd out for help. H—— call'd out for Cl——, and Z—— summon'd Al—— and D—— to his Aid, so some declar'd in favour of one and some of t'other, only I—— strictly observ'd a Neutrality. It happen'd unluckily Z—— whip'd up A——'s Glass and flung it at H——'s Head, but luckily miss'd him; however, it almost clove the Bridegroom's Scull. At which unfortunate Accident, there was a mighty out-cry among the Women, and some of them had the Courage to press into the Heat of the Battle; among the rest, the young Gentleman's Mother, when she saw him bleed so mightily, and his Spouse, who thought they had kill'd him in the Fray. In this Juncture Al—— did Z—— mighty Service; for laying about him with his Oaken-Plant, he broke Cl——'s Scull, and spoil'd
the

the Sockets of *H—n*'s Grinders, besides that he wounded several of the Servants that came in to their assistance, who did all they could to get him out of the Room. However *Cl—s*, to make himself some amends, thrust his Fingers into *Z—s*'s Eye, and pull'd it out, and afterwards ingaging more closely with him, bit off a good part of his Nose. As *D—s* was coming up to the Relief of *Z—s*, *H—n* whip'd up his Heels, and set him full upon his Head. Nay, the poor Singulariter Man *I—s* was dismally wounded, as he was piously interposing to part them; for *Cl—s*, who mistook him, it seems, for *D—s*, kick'd him full in the Mouth; to the utter confusion of several of his Grammatical Teeth: So the poor Wretch lay grunting upon the Floor, and, as *Homer* has it,

*From's batter'd Mouth he spew'd up clotted
Gore.*

By this, the whole House was in an Up-roar, what with the struggling of the Men, and the howling of the Women, who were making lamentable Moan about the unfortunate Bridegroom; inasmuch, that 'twas a very hard matter to appease 'em: But the most ungovernable Beast, was *Al—s*, who brandishing his Staff, let fly as thick as Hail upon every body that came in his way;

way ; and 'tis possible, had done the Devil and all of Mischief, if by a singular piece of Providence this knock-'em-down Plant of his had not luckily broke. My Friend, that gave me the Account of this whole Matter, said, he neither meddled nor made ; but kept himself close up to the Wall, and so contented himself with being a Spectator only, having learn'd this little Philosophy from his School-master *I——s*, That 'tis none of the best Policy to attempt to part People when they are together by the Ears. One would have sworn, by my Friend's Account, Old-Nick had possess'd 'em all directly, to see how the Tables were overturn'd, how the Bottles and Glasses flew about, and the Men batter'd one another. At last *Al——s* struck out all the Candles, and then you may guess what a blessed Condition they were in, being left to fight it out in the dark : But when Candles were again brought in, the *Cynick Al——s* was catch'd in a very indecent sture with a Woman that had entertain'd the Company with a Song, had pluck'd up her Petticoats, and was going to teach her some of his Natural Philosophy, whether she would or no : And *D——s*, who had furnish'd himself with a Gold-Cup, drop'd it in surprize from under his Cloak : However, he pretended *I——n* gave it him to hold lest it should be broke, &c. And trusty, *I——n*, like a Friend, avouch'd it to

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be

be so. This, and the other Passage, chang'd the Face of Affairs, and turn'd the Sadness of the Company into Mirth. As for the Wounded, they were carry'd off, most of 'em in a sad Pickle, and very uselefs, particularly, old Z——s, who lost an Eye, and half a Nose in the Engagement, cry'd out, he was e'en dead with the Pain : So that H——n, altho' a Sufferer himself, for he had two of his Teeth struck out, could not forbear breaking his Jest upon him : Remember, says he, you that have preach'd up *Apathy* to others, you confounded Rogue, to call every thing by its right Name for the time to come; and do not call Pain pleasant or indifferent. By this time the Bridegroom, whose Wounds were now bound up by Di——s, was carry'd Home with a Napkin ty'd about his Head, in the same Chariot that was to carry his Lady. This was the Entertainment at the Nuptial-Feast. Now D—— the Surgeon, having apply'd proper Balsams to the rest of his wounded Patients, as their Cases requir'd, after they had taken a Nap, were led home, most of 'em casting up their Accounts as they went along. As for Al——s, he stay'd all Night, for having laid himself cross a Couch, he fell fast a-sleep, and all the Servants were not able to stir him.

This

This is the Account of this Feast, as I re-
ceiv'd it from my Friend : And I leave it to
the Reader to judge, whether these mighty
Pretenders to Self-denial, have not been
guilty of as much Irregularity and Debau-
chery, as even a profess'd Libertine.

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